

Message Text

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64

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FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BANGKOK 26611, ACTION SECSTATE, DEC 22, 75:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 26611

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: USDA RESEARCH PROJECTS

REF: STATE 257894

1. THE MISSION HAS REVIEWED THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDS FUNDING BOTH PROJECTS, TEA AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS.

2. THE TEA PROJECT HELPS TO OBTAIN THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. TEA REQUIRES PERMANENT PLANTINGS AND WILL STABILIZE THE SOIL PREVENTING WATER RUNOFF AND SOIL EROSION. TEA WILL REDUCE SLASH AND BURN AGRICULTURE AND RESULT IN PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS. TEA CULTIVATION WILL GIVE TEAROUND EMPLOYMENT TO THE HILLTRIBE PEOPLE AND IS A RELATIVELY HIGH VALUE CROP WHICH WILL PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY CASH INCOME. WITH PERMANENT TEA PLANTATIONS LAND WILL BE REMOVED FROM FUTURE OPIUM CULTIVATION.

3. ORNAMENTAL PLANTS (BULBS, PLANTS, CUT FLOWERS AND SEED) ARE HIGH VALUE CROPS IN DEMAND IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. SLAES OF BULBS, PLANTS AND CUT FLOWERS COULD COMPETE WITH THE PRODUCTION
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OF THE OPIUM POPPY IN PROVIDING CASH INCOME TO THE FARMER.

SEVERAL OF THE VARIETIES OF PLANTS AND BULBS TO BE STUDIED REQUIRE
SHADE FOR PROPER GROWTH. THEREFORE, REFORESTATION WILL BE A
SECONDARY RESULT OF THIS PROJECT. THE HILLTRIBE PEOPLE WILL BE
R
MORE FULLY OCCUPIED AND WILL RECEIVE A HIGH RETURN FOR THEIR LABOR.
THIS WILL
REDUCE THEIR DEPENDENCE ON GROWING THE OPIUM POPPY FOR CASH INCOME.
THE REFORESTATION WILL REDUCE THE SLASH AND BURN AGRICULTURE AND
REDUCE EROSION. WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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